

The claimed invention is:

1. A method for the treatment of a patient having a need to suppress the sustained slow postsynaptic excitation caused by prolonged stimulation of synaptic inputs to intrinsic primary afferent neurons, comprising administering to the patient a therapeutically effective amount of a protein kinase C (PKC) inhibitor
2. The method of claim 1, wherein said PKC is selected from the group consisting of PKC γ , PKC ϵ , and PKC λ .
3. The method of claim 1, wherein said PKC is PKC γ .
4. The method of claim 1, wherein said inhibitor is a selective inhibitor of PKC γ .
5. The method of claim 1, wherein said inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of staurosporine, R031-8220, and calphostin C.
6. The method of any one of claims 1-5, wherein the patient is suffering from a disease selected from the group consisting of intestinal hypersensitivity, irritable bowel syndrome, non-ulcer dyspepsia, and other conditions that may derive from long-term changes in the behavior of enteric neurons.